RESPONSE

Record of Telephone Interview

Date of Interview December 12, 2002
Time of Interview 2:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
Call placed by Alan Ball
U.S.P.T.O. Attendees: Examiner Duverne

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the opportunity to discuss the Office Action, during interview by telephone on Thursday, December 12, 2002. Initial discussion focused on several questions related to the Office Action of October 23, 2002. Applicant's agent requested clarification regarding citing the reference of Lewis (U.S. 4,172,106) as a basis for rejection of the present invention for obviousness. Lewis discloses an optical fiber cable that is in a different field of invention from individual coated optical fibers according to the present invention. Examiner Duverne agreed that description emphasizing that single coated fibers are claimed by the present invention would overcome the reference of Lewis. Applicants agent agreed to emphasize single coated optical fibers by adding new claims.

Further discussion of the Office Action of October 23, 2002 addressed the use of In re Boesch. Examiner Duverne agreed that the reference of Lewis does not teach all the limitations of claims of the present invention and does not identify a variable that was known to be result effective. Although not admitting that In re Boesch does not apply to the present invention, Examiner Duverne invited applicants' agent to provide suitable arguments addressing this point.

Remarks

New claim 21 has been added. Claims 1 - 21 are pending.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Support for new claim 21 can be found throughout the specification, for example, on page 21, lines 14 - 22, page 23, line 7, and Tables 3 and 4.

The relevance of the reference of Lewis (U.S. 4,172,106) to the present invention is not clear to the applicants. Lewis describes an optical fiber cable up to 3mm in diameter. This diameter is twenty to twenty-five times greater than a small diameter optical fiber having a diameter in a range from about 120 microns to about 150 microns as required by claim 1 of the